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# Your thoughts needed: RITS and AS220's collaboration

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**From:** Donna Godinmessier  
**To:** Marie Popko  
**Date:** 9/21/2005 1:14:32 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Your thoughts needed: RITS and AS220's collaboration

Marie:

One thing that stands out in my mind is when Trystan, one of my mentees, said, "AS220 saved my life. I'd probably be dead without them." - Donna

I love mentoring and sharing experiences with the kids they haven't had before. They've enjoyed snow mobiling, snow boarding, jet skiing, horseback riding, kick boxing, and lots of Indian food.

Two of my favorite moments were watching Fresney ride a horse for the first time and when Jorge kicked my butt in kickboxing!

>>> Marie Popko 9/19/2005 2:53 PM >>>

AS220 is organizing an exhibit called, Inside Out: History of the Collaboration between AS220 and the Rhode Island Training School.

**We want to hear and present the voice of the staff that has seen AS220 grow in this facility.** If you could take a moment to reflect on one or more of the following questions, we would like to use your words in the exhibit amongst the artwork and documentation from over the last 5 years. Please pass this email on to others that have seen or been a part of the history.

What do you think of AS220 inside the RITS?  
What changes have you seen AS220 take?  
How has AS220 affected you, the youth, the RITS?  
Recall a favorite moment...

Please indicate how you would like your name presented along with your quote. (only first name, with title, or whole name).

The exhibit will be up the whole month of October. The reception will be October 20th, 6-8 at AS220, 115 Empire Street, Providence.

Thank you for your time! Your words will help provide richness to the history of this unique collaboration. Please send an email to [marie.popko@dcyf.ri.gov](mailto:marie.popko@dcyf.ri.gov) or put you thoughts in the mailbox marked "Popko" in the teachers lounge.

Marie Popko

.....  
RITS/AS220 Arts Coordinator  
Mentor Program Coordinator  
wk# 462-0730  
.....

**From:** JoAnn Robitaille  
**To:** Marie Popko  
**Date:** 9/20/2005 10:58:26 AM  
**Subject:** Here is my blurb per your request. You can use my name title is (goddess) thank you.  
Jo Ann

**What do you think of AS220 inside the RITS?** I feel that AS220 has been a positive outlet for our residents' talents. I think the caliber of AS220 instructors has improved and their professionalism has increased.

**What changes have you seen AS220 take?** I have noticed AS220 taking the initiative to help the youth especially with transition out of the Training School and back into the community through their Broad Street programs.

**How has AS220 affected you, the youth, the RITS?** The AS220 program has enabled the youth to feel that they have something to offer in the community. They feel valued as talented humans that can give back to society instead of taking things away. The program has helped me see that perspective also.

**Recall a favorite moment...** Last year I attended the Broad Street exhibition. The days leading up to it were so intense; seeing the VISTA workers Meghan MacNeil and Marie Popko giving 100%. Their fearless enthusiasm was infectious to all around them. The event was a success and brought to light all of the various talents the youth can untap with the right direction.

What do you think of AS220 inside the RITS?

I have always enjoyed utilizing AS220's talented people and incorporating their knowledge with the knowledge of my students!!

What changes have you seen AS220 take?

More and more serious talent...because they have taken the time to get to know our students.

How has AS220 affected you, the youth, the RITS?

By incorporating the arts in to the academic aspect and making it fun and interesting.

Recall a favorite moment... Back when Nina was here, she and I were working with the YCC kids (it was group N at the time) on a mural. It was her first time here and I had only been teaching for about 2 years. I don't think she knew what to expect and I had never worked with these students in this capacity (collaborating on what we want to accomplish, designing, painting, etc.) At one point, when we had been working on this mural for a decent amount of time, I stood back and just watched these group of kids; some in rival gangs, some in for a long "bid" due to their charge; silently and diligently working/painting together to accomplish this intended mural we all came up with. I remember calling Nina over to experience this too and we both just watched with proud admiration. The mural's outcome was phenomenal. Nina was great.

Please indicate how you would like your name presented along with your quote. (only first name, with title, or whole name).

Please print only first name, with title..Allison, English teacher

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